

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 03202 111002Z

22

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TAGS: PFOR, UN, ML

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 220772, (B) STATE 220773

1. CHARGE MET SEPTEMBER 8 WITH SECRETARY GENERAL, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SEYDOU TRAORE, TO DISCUSS 31ST UNGA. AFTER REVIEWING US OBJECTIVES AS OUTLINED PARAGRAPH 4, REF A, CHARGE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED STATUS OF THE PUERTO RICAN QUESTION, US POSITION ON KOREA, MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA AND UN ORGANIZATIONS. IN RESPONSE, SECRETARY GENERAL PLEDGED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND TO SEEK COOPERATION WITH USUN WHENEVER POSSIBLE. MAJOR ELEMENTS OF DISCUSSION AS FOLLOWS:

2. PUERTO RICO: CHARGE SUMMARIZED COMMITTEE OF 24'S CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. (CABLED REPORT OF FINAL DENOUEMENT ARRIVED JUST BEFORE THE MEETING.) SECRETARY GENERAL TOOK GREAT CARE TO ASSURE CHARGE THAT MALI WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH THE US ON THE PUERTO RICO QUESTION.

3. KOREA: NOTING THE DIVERGENCE OF MALIAN AND US POSITIONS ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, CHARGE EMPHASIZED CRITICALITY OF CURRENT SITUATION AS ILLUSTRATED
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PAGE 02 BAMA KO 03202 111002Z

BY THE PANMUNJOMH NCIDENT AND CONFRONTATIONAL NATURE

OF THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY NORTH KOREA. THE US HAD HOPED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION IN UN BUT FACED WITH NORTH KOREAN CHALLENGE HAD COUNTERED WITH A RESOLUTION DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE. CHARGE GAVE THE SECRETARY GENERAL THE FRENCH TEXT OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THAT WHILE MALIAN AND US HELD OPPOSITE VIEWS ON KOREA, MALI, ALONG WITH THE US, FAVORED DIALOGUE AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES. MOST OF ALL, MALI SOUGHT PEACE AND WANTED A PEACEFUL RATHER THAN ARMED RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM.

4. AFRICA: CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND CONTINUING CONTACTS OF HIGH LEVEL STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WITH AFRICAN LEADERSHIP INDICATED THE DEGREE OF US CONCERN OVER THE PRESENT SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE US HOPED THAT CURRENT INITIATIVES WOULD MEET WITH SOME SUCCESS AND THAT UNGA DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROBLEM WOULD PRESERVE THE BASIS FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THAT MALI WAS PLEASED TO SEE US CHANGE FROM NON-ENGAGEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SEEKING AN ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM. HE WISHED THE SECRETARY EVERY SUCCESS IN HIS NEGOTIATION EFFORTS.

5. UN ORGANIZATION: CHARGE NOTED THAT US WISHED TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE UN CHARTER AND MAKE THE ADMINISTRATION OF ITS VARIOUS ORGANISMS MORE EFFECTIVE. USG BELIEVED THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF BIENNIAL BUDGETING, ONCE ESTABLISHED, SHOULD BE UPHELD BY APPROPRIATE ECONOMIZING EFFORTS. SECRETARY GENERAL RECOGNIZED THAT THE PREDOMINANT BURDEN OF UN FINANCING FELL ON USG, BUT SAID THAT IMPROPER ADMINISTRATION WASTED MALI'S MONEY AS WELL. IN BRIEFING THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HE HAD EMPHASIZED THAT UN'S PROBLEM WAS OFTEN NOT LACK OF MONEY BUT BAD MANAGEMENT. MALI WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT US EFFORTS TO RATIONALIZE UN PROGRAMS.

6. COMMENTS: MALIAN RESPONSES WERE STANDARD FOR DIS-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BAMA KO 03202 111002Z

CUSSIONS OF THIS TYPE. SECRETARY GENERAL DID NOT FOCUS ON THE TACTICS IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND SEEMED RATHER TO WANT TO REASSURE THE USG REGARDING MALI'S POSITION ON PUERTO RICO. SECRETARY GENERAL'S STATEMENTS ON UN MANAGEMENT WERE HOWEVER, THE STRONGEST WE HAVE HEARD FROM THE MALIANS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER IN FACT MALI WOULD VOTE FOR RESPONSIBLE FISCAL MEASURES.

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